

KEY FACTS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES

The Economic Engine

International travel is one of the largest exports for the United States, ranking ahead of agricultural goods and motor vehicles. It is the single largest services sector export, accounting for 25 percent of all services exports in 2012.

In 2012 total U.S. international travel spending was \$165.6 billion. This level includes spending in the United States and international passenger airfare payments made by non-resident visitors arriving on U.S. carriers (both exports).

The U.S. generated a travel trade surplus of \$47.5 billion in 2012. A surplus has been produced continuously since 1989. A surplus occurs when foreign visitors spend more in the United States than U.S. residents spend traveling abroad.

Spending by international travelers visiting the United States in 2012 supported 1.2 million of the 7.8 million American jobs supported directly or indirectly by all traveler spending.

International visitors spend more per traveler than U.S. domestic travelers. Although they account for only four percent of total travelers, they represent 17 percent of total travel-related demand. International visitors accounted for 22 percent of all passenger air transportation services demand, 20 percent of all traveler accommodations demand, 20 percent of all food and beverage demand, 15 percent of all highway tolls, and three percent of all gasoline consumption.

2012 Visitation Levels

A record 66.7 million international travelers visited the United States in 2012, up six percent from 2011. The increase in 2012 builds on the record-setting performance in 2011.

The largest visitor markets for the United States in 2012 were Canada (34%), Mexico (21%), U.K. (6%), Japan (6%), Germany (3%), Brazil (3%), and China (2%). Combined, these seven markets accounted for 74 percent of all 2012 international visitors.

The United States ranks second behind France for share of world international visitors. The U.S.'s share of 2012 arrivals was 6.4%.

2012 U.S. Visitors

Total	66.7 million		
1 Canada	22.7 million	6 Brazil	1.8 million
2 Mexico	14.2 million	7 China	1.5 million
3 U.K.	3.8 million	8 France	1.5 million
4 Japan	3.7 million	9 S. Korea	1.3 million
5 Germany	1.9 million	10 Australia	1.1 million

2012 Visitor Spending Levels

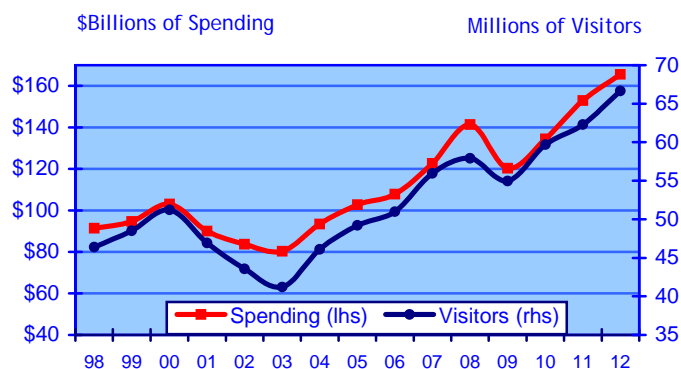
Spending by international travelers to the United States in 2012 was \$165.6 billion. Of this total, \$126 billion was spent in the United States and \$39 billion on passenger fares on U.S. carriers. In 2012 the U.S. ranked first among worldwide destinations in travel spending, garnering 11.9 percent market share; this share is more than double that of second-ranked Spain.

In 2012 Canada remained the top-ranked spending country among U.S. origin countries, accounting for 15 percent of total spending. Japan ranked 2nd (10%), followed by U.K. (8%), Mexico (6%), and Brazil (6%).

2012 U.S. Visitor Spending

Total	\$165.6 billion		
1 Canada	\$25.5 billion	6 China	\$8.8 billion
2 Japan	\$16.5 billion	7 Germany	\$6.9 billion
3 U.K.	\$12.6 billion	8 Australia	\$5.4 billion
4 Mexico	\$10.0 billion	9 France	\$5.3 billion
5 Brazil	\$9.3 billion	10 India	\$4.9 billion

U.S. Visitors and Spending 1998-2012



Notes: International travelers include all non-U.S. residents who visit the country and stay one or more nights. Passenger fares are not collected at a global level. Thus U.S. spending comparisons and rankings compared to other countries are based on spending within a country.

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Manufacturing and Services, Services, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis; United Nations World Tourism Organization.

For more information on the international travel market to the United States, please visit the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries' web site at: <http://tinet.ita.doc.gov>.

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